

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9951
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 06666

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, US, PARM, MPOL
SUBJECT: CAT: SOVIET SUGGESTED ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGE-
MENTS FOR HELSINKI

1. IN HIS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL 4 MENDELEVICH DISCUSSED SUBSTANTIVE APPROACH (SEPTTEL) AND EXPLAINED HIS PREFERENCES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE SECOND ROUND OF THE CAT TALKS SET TO BEGIN MAY 4 IN HELSINKI. THE FOLLOWING ARE MENDELEVICH'S SUGGESTIONS TO WHICH, HE SAID, HE WOULD APPRECIATE U.S. REACTION.
2. MEETINGS: THE FIRST MEETING MENDELEVICH SUGGESTED BE THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN AN INFORMAL PRELIMINARY SESSION AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 3 RPT MAY 3. MENDELEVICH SAID HE WOULD ARRIVE IN HELSINKI BY NOON AND THOUGHT 6:00 P.M. MAY BE THE BEST TIME FOR THE MEETING. SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS HE SUGGESTED BE PLENARY MEETINGS AND BE HELD ALTERNATELY AT THE U.S. AND SOVIET EMBASSIES BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING SESSION ON MAY 4 AT THE U.S. EMBASSY. MENDELEVICH DID NOT SUGGEST A SPECIFIC HOUR FOR THE PLENARY SESSIONS TO BEGIN.

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3. DURATION: MENDELEVICH SUGGESTED THIS ROUND BE "NOT LONG" AND SAID THE SOVIETS WERE FLEXIBLE ABOUT WHETHER THE MEETINGS SHOULD LAST 4 OR 5 DAYS. SOVIET PREFERENCE IS FOR 4 DAYS OF MEETINGS ON MAY 4, 5, 6 AND 8 OR ON MAY 4, 5, 8 AND 9 DEPENDING ON THE PREFERENCE OF THE U.S. SIDE. HE SAID THE SOVIET DELEGATION "IF NECESSARY" IS PREPARED FOR A MEETING ON SATURDAY BUT HE WOULD LEAVE

IT TO THE U.S. DELEGATION TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WISHED TO HAVE A SESSION THAT DAY. HE THOUGHT THAT A 3 DAY DURATION WOULD BE "TOO SHORT" FOR A USEFUL SESSION.

4. PRESS RELEASE: MENDELEVICH GAVE THE AMBASSADOR THE RUSSIAN VERSION OF WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS THE AGREED TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE WHICH HE SAID THE SOVIET SIDE PREFERRED BE RELEASED ON APRIL 28 JUST PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETINGS. SINCE THE U.S. SIDE HAD SUGGESTED RELEASING AS EARLY AS "THE FIRST DAYS OF APRIL," MENDELEVICH WISHED TO KNOW IF THE U.S. WAS NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET DATE OF APRIL 28.

5. SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS: MENDELEVICH SAID THAT GELB HAD MENTIONED HOSTING A LUNCH AND HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD RECIPROCATATE. HE SUGGESTED THEY BE FORMAL LUNCHES HOSTED BY THE RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS AND THAT "WORKING LUNCHES" AWAIT A SUBSEQUENT ROUND IN THE TALKS.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSES AS APPROPRIATE TO THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS WHICH WE WILL TRANSMIT TO MENDELEVICH. TOON

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